(*c*) if so, when was it started ;

(*d*) whether the work is completed ;

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) is in the negative, why it is delayed ;

(*f*) whether they are aware that the Thalavady river is useless for both navigation and agricultural purposes, when it has to be used by the agriculturists ; and

(*g*) whether they are aware that by the cutting open of the Chakkalain Mukku, the river will be useful to the public?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) 1118 M. E.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Due to non-acquisition of lands and the unwillingness of the owners to allow entry into the land before formal acquisition for carrying out the work.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) Yes.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know whether the Government are aware that the portion of the river from Edathua to Chakkalain Mukku is dried up and not even one foot deep?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: It is not dried up. But during certain seasons of the year there is not sufficient water for navigation. That is why the estimate has been sanctioned and work will be taken up immediately after the land is acquired.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: Being a native of the place may I know whether even a small canoe can pass through this portion safely at this time of the year?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Yes, small canoes can.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: Without any obstruction?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Yes, without any obstruction.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: If the Government Officers are to make such statements against truth.....

President: You say that it is not correct?

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: I pass through that Canal very often.

President: The Chief Engineer will verify that.

Medical Officer at Chitticaud.

127. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup**: Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received any complaints against the Medical Officer at Chetticaud from a section of the people of that place ;

(*b*) if so, what is the nature of the complaints ; and

(*c*) whether any action has been taken on it ?

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Dr. S. John (*Surgeon-General*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The complaint was that the Medical Officer of Chetticaud was not attending the dispensary in the afternoons.

(*c*) An enquiry was conducted and the Medical Officer was suitably dealt with.

Evening Dispensary at Kottankulangara or Punnamada.

128. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received any representation from the people of South Ariad requesting to start an evening dispensary at Kottankulangara or Punnamada ;

(*b*) whether the people had undertaken to provide a building and furniture free of rent for the purpose ; and

(*c*) what action has been taken on the representation ?

Dr. S. John : (*a*) There was a representation from the public for the opening of a full time dispensary at Ariad South or for shifting the Mullakkal Dispensary to a convenient building at Thattampalli or Punnamada ;

(*b*) The petition of the public does not say anything about a building being furnished free of rent for the purpose.

(*c*) On inspection it is seen that South Ariad is only three miles from Mullakkal and there is a good road connecting the two places. As it is felt that a dispensary at Muhamma will be more useful to the public the question of opening a part time dispensary at Muhamma is under the consideration of Government.

Plague trouble in the State.

129. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is actual plague trouble in the State :

(*b*) if so, where; and

(*c*) whether any instance of plague was detected in Alleppey for the past 6 months ?

Rajyasevanirata Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai (*Director of Public Health*) : (*a*) There is no human case of plague in the State at present. Plague is however prevalent among rats in Alleppey as a result of which rat-falls occur in the town.

(*b*) *vide* answer to part (*a*).

(*c*) Yes, besides plague among rats one human case of plague also was detected.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

130. ***Mr. P. Gopalan** (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

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